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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

10 December 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ELLSWORTH, OSD
MR. LATIMER, PDASD(I)/DDI

SUBJECT: New Charter for the National Reconnaissance Program

We have reviewed Mr. Bush's Memorandum for Members of the Committee on Foreign Intelligence, 5 November 1976, (11672-76). Certain textual changes have been incorporated since the last draft which I believe should be considered further (references are to paragraphs in the draft Agreement format).

a. Para 2. c. adds reference to civil users. It is suggested that this paragraph be qualified by specifically pointing out that civil users' requirements are not for intelligence or personnel surveillance purposes.

b. Para 2. e. adds the provision for NSA to participate in the development of SIGINT reconnaissance satellites. NSA people are presently involved in SIGINT satellite and ground processing system development through the NRO structure, where they act as fully integrated members at both the Program Office and Staff level. NSA also has the responsibility for the processing of SIGINT satellite intelligence data. Since it is not intended that the NSA develop spaceborne hardware for SIGINT satellites, I believe it will be counterproductive to include the last sentence of para 2. e. in the Agreement. Wording that tends to cloud the issue of responsibilities is not recommended.

c. Para 3. h. calls for the DCI to maintain policy guidance within the NRP. I believe the intent is to provide policy guidance for the NRP as it relates to all elements of the Government. Changing the word "within" to "for" would accomplish this.

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PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

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The previous draft included the statement that the DNRO would "Defend the National Reconnaissance Program budget as approved by the President through presentations to the Congress and elsewhere as required." I believe this is still a proper responsibility and should be included.

I have previously suggested the addition of a sentence to para 5. b., "Periodic reports to the Intelligence Oversight Board as required by Executive Order 11905 and which cover the total National Reconnaissance Program will be submitted by the Inspector General for Defense Intelligence following coordination as appropriate with the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency." In practice, we now do submit our periodic reports to the IOB through the Inspector General for Defense Intelligence, including the inputs from the NRO CIA Program Office. I believe inclusion of the suggested words is still desirable.

From recent discussions I conclude that there is firm support for streamlined management for the NRP. In general this agreement supports that observation to the extent that it provides a framework for the NRP. Based on recent experience, I would propose the inclusion of a new sentence between the first and second sentences of para 4. g. to read "The DNRO shall be subject to direction only from the CFI principals or the Secretary of Defense." Also, it is suggested that the word "submit" in the second line of para 4. h. be changed to "present and justify." I believe these statements would aid in reestablishing the management concept originally conceived for the program.

Charles W. Cook
Acting Director

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CONTROL 8-76
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PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES